

1 ~~Dr N.R. Butler~~
2 P.R.O London
✓ Region.



3. Miss Buchanan
4. Miss Maguire
5. Library - S. Row

BOROUGH OF WATFORD

Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1959

W. A L C O C K

M.B., Ch.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

K. H. M A R S D E N

F.A.P.H.I.

Chief Public Health Inspector

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health, and Divisional Medical Officer for South West Hertfordshire:

W. Alcock, M.B., Ch.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Town Hall, Watford.

Telephone: WATFORD 26400

Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Assistant County Medical Officer:

E.W.G. Birch, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

K.H. Marsden

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

G.F. Willcox

District Public Health Inspectors:

E. Ellerington

J.L. Willoughby

T.B. Rosamond

G.E. Hayne - Resigned December, 1959

Chief Clerk Borough and Divisional Health Departments:

Miss J.E.M. Sherlock

Clerical Staff:-

Miss M. Johnson

Miss M. James

Miss E. Jerrett - Resigned February, 1959

Miss A. Finn - Commenced March, 1959

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The members of the Health Committee

1958 - 1959

Chairman:	Alderman G. A. Musk
Vice-Chairman:	Councillor G. W. Smith
The Worshipful The Mayor:	Councillor R. W. Gamble
The Deputy Mayor:	Alderman H. Horwood

Alderman T. F. Harris	Councillor F. Mackenzie
Alderman L. C. Johnson	Councillor H. A. E. Mounter
Alderman Mrs. A. Primett	Councillor J. S. Oliver
Councillor T. D. Bathurst	Councillor J. R. Rourke
Councillor Mrs. E. I. Bruce	Councillor Miss D. M. Scawen
Councillor J. P. Cook	Councillor J. Seymour
Councillor Mrs. M. Higgins	
Councillor R. S. Horner	

1959 - 1960

Chairman:	Alderman G. A. Musk
Vice-Chairman:	Councillor J. Seymour
The Worshipful The Mayor:	Alderman T. F. Harris
The Deputy Mayor:	Councillor R. W. Gamble

Alderman H. Horwood	Councillor F. Mackenzie
Alderman L. C. Johnson	Councillor H. A. E. Mounter
Alderman Mrs. A. Primett	Councillor J. S. Oliver
Councillor D. T. Bathurst	Councillor A. L. Robinson
Councillor Mrs. E. I. Bruce	Councillor J. R. Rourke
Councillor J. P. Cook	Councillor Miss D. M. Scawen
Councillor Mrs. M. Higgins	
Councillor C. F. W. Johnson	

BOROUGH OF WATFORD

Health Department,

Town Hall,

WATFORD.

22nd August, 1960.

TO THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report upon the work of the Public Health Department for the year 1959.

Principal Vital Statistics.

These are set out in tabular form and, apart from the infantile mortality rate, call for no special comment. The infantile mortality rate is remarkable in that it is not only the lowest that has ever been recorded in the Borough but it must be one of the lowest in the whole country. It compares very favourably with the figure for England and Wales. Of the nine infant deaths, six occurred within the first week of life, and even when still births are added, we arrive at a peri-natal mortality rate which is considerably lower than the national figure. These statistics are worthy of close study and reflect great credit upon all who work for the promotion of high standards in the field of maternal and child health.

For the fifth consecutive year there were no maternal deaths.

Infectious Diseases.

The incidence of the common infectious diseases was low. It is ten years ago since the last case of diphtheria occurred in the Borough. There were very few cases of whooping cough, with no deaths, and the incidence of measles, although high, was less than might have been expected, in accordance with the biennial trend which this disease exhibits.

We were unfortunate in having sixteen cases of poliomyelitis during the year, and at a time when we were beginning to feel very satisfied with the progress of our anti-polio vaccination campaign. Of these cases, ten were paralytic and six were non-paralytic. There was one death, a woman who had recently given birth to a child, illustrating the malign influence of this disease when associated with pregnancy

or childbirth. One patient was extensively paralysed (she died in 1960). In at least one case, enquiries revealed a connection between the family concerned and the Islington area of North London where an outbreak of this disease was in progress.

So far, however, from shaking our faith in the efficacy of vaccination, this outbreak served to reinforce it. Of the sixteen cases recorded, only four had received any protection by vaccination. One had had one injection and three had had two. None, however, had had the three doses which are regarded as essential to achieve solid immunity. It is sad to relate that of the ten cases who had not been vaccinated, eight were eligible for the free vaccination which is available at the various clinics or through the family doctor.

In the report will be found details relating to anti-poliomyelitis vaccination. The figures are impressive and I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks to all those members of the County Council staff and the general practitioners who have contributed to the success of the campaign. A graph is included which shows the striking reduction that has taken place in the incidence of poliomyelitis since vaccination began in 1956.

Tuberculosis claimed three deaths during the year, a ten-fold reduction in the death rate within the last fifteen years. This remarkable decrease in so short a period is mainly due to the efficacy of the new anti-tuberculosis drugs, but when it has to be recorded that there were as many as eighty new cases of tuberculosis in the Borough, we must continue to regard this disease as a serious public health problem.

Health Education.

Your officers have continued their activities in this field with unabated zeal, but it is an uphill struggle. If we are to use, with profit to ourselves and the community, the many years which have been added to the expectation of life in the past half century, we should be giving serious thought to this question of the "Art of Living". This art is not difficult to acquire, the rules are comparatively simple, but their exercise calls for a degree of discipline which, alas, few of us are prepared to apply to ourselves.

During the year, your Home Safety Committee gave a good account of themselves. A stand was exhibited during the ~~Whitsun~~ Carnival and Home Safety Competition held for which prizes of Premium Bonds were presented by the Mayor. Other activities included a Poster Competition and an exhibition in the Central Library to illustrate the dangers of falls and burns. Efforts of this kind entail a tremendous lot of work and I wish to thank the Committee and all who co-operated in this work, including the panel of speaking for the patient efforts they have put into it.

Food Hygiene.

As will be seen from the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector, enforcement of the food hygiene regulations and education, both of food traders and the consuming public, have continued to play an important part in the work of your Public Health Inspectors. Each year brings its crop of notified cases of food poisoning, although perhaps these are not very large when one considers the number of people who habitually dine out in canteens and restaurants at the present time.

The unusual action was taken during the year of stopping the sale of a supply of raw milk which was delivered into the Borough from a source outside. Samples of the milk were found to contain the organism responsible for the disease known as Undulant Fever and in accordance with the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, the supply of milk into the Borough was stopped pending the receipt of satisfactory samples.

Fluoridation of the Public Water Supply.

The addition of fluoride salts to the Borough water supply in the optimal amount of one part per million has continued under the strictly controlled conditions which have obtained since this measure was introduced. Each year dental examinations of about 2000 children between the ages of three and fifteen are carried out in the Borough and also in the Borough of Sutton, our control town, whose water supply contains no natural fluoride and none has been added artificially.

Within the last generation quite remarkable improvements have taken place in the health of the community in almost every direction. In three, however, there has been a marked worsening of the position, notably in the incidence of coronary heart disease, lung cancer and dental caries. So far as the latter is concerned, however, we believe that in fluoridation of the public water supply we have a measure which can be relied upon to effect a substantial reduction in the incidence of dental decay and we confidently await the outcome of the surveys which are now being undertaken in the three areas in Great Britain, namely, Anglesey, Kilmarnock and Watford.

I should feel that my report was not complete if I did not conclude it by paying a tribute to the staff of the Department for all the good work they have put in and I should also like to thank the members of the Council and particularly the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their interest and support during the year under review.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,

W. ALCOCK,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (acres)	5, 275
Estimated civilian population to mid-year 1959	73, 780
Number of inhabited houses (estimated)	22, 832
Rateable value at 1. 4. 59.	£1, 532, 452
Sum represented by a penny rate	£6, 875

Number of Live Births	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	580	515	1, 095
Illegitimate	<u>31</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>62</u>
	611	546	1, 157
	<u><u> </u></u>	<u><u> </u></u>	<u><u> </u></u>

Number of Still Births			
Legitimate	7	17	24
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
	8	17	25
	<u><u> </u></u>	<u><u> </u></u>	<u><u> </u></u>

Total number of Births (Live and Still) 1, 182

Total number of Deaths 870

Causes of Death of Watford Residents:-

		<u>1959</u>		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>1958</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	1	2	2
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	3	2	1	1
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
Whooping cough	-	-	-	-
Menigococcal Infections	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	-	1	-
Measles	-	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic disease ...	2	2	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	24	15	9	25
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	35	29	6	42
Malignant neoplasm, breast	11	-	11	10
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	7	-	7	4
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	93	45	48	103
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
c/f...	179	94	85	187

1959				
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>1958</u>
b/f...	179	94	85	187
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	5	5	-	4
Diabetes	8	1	7	8
Vascular lesions of nervous system	113	46	67	101
Coronary disease, angina	128	88	40	138
Hypertension with heart disease	20	3	17	17
Other heart disease	91	29	62	123
Other circulatory disease	36	15	21	32
Influenza	13	9	4	8
Pneumonia	84	45	39	58
Bronchitis	55	35	20	60
Other diseases of respiratory system	6	3	3	9
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	9	9	-	7
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	8	1	7	4
Nephritis and Nephrosis	3	1	2	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	5	5	-	5
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	3	1	2	5
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	59	28	31	70
Motor vehicle accidents	7	4	3	9
All other accidents	26	9	17	28
Suicide	10	5	5	10
Homicide and operations of war ...	2	1	1	-
	<u>870</u>	<u>437</u>	<u>433</u>	<u>884</u>

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Infantile Deaths (under 1 years)			
Legitimate	8	1	9
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>9</u>

<u>Birth Rate and Death Rate, 1959</u>	<u>Watford</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
Rates per 1,000 civilian population		
LIVE BIRTHS	15.7	16.5
STILL BIRTHS (per 1,000 total live and still births)	21.2	21.0
Death Rate		
All Causes	11.8	11.6
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00
Influenza	0.18	0.17
Acute Poliomyelitis		
(inc. Polioencephalitis)	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia	1.14	0.60
Tuberculosis	0.04	0.08
Malignant Neoplasms,		
Lung, Bronchus	0.47	0.46
Coronary Disease		
Angina Pectoris	1.73	1.87
Maternal Mortality Rate - (per 1,000 total births)	There were no maternal deaths.	
Puerperal Sepsis	0.00	0.10)
Other Puerperal Causes	0.00	0.28) Provis.
All puerperal Causes	0.00	0.38)
Infant Mortality Rate (Deaths of infants under 1 year)		
ALL INFANTS per 1,000 live births	7.8	22.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 Legitimate live births	8.2	
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births	0.0	
NEONATAL MORTALITY (deaths of infants under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)	5.2	15.8
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (Deaths during first week per 1,000 live births)	5.2	-

Perinatal Mortality Rate

(Stillbirths plus deaths during first week
per 1,000 total live and still births) 26.2 34.2

PERCENTAGE OF ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS 5.4 5.1

COMPARATIVE RATES

	Watford	England and Wales	Watford	England and Wales
	<u>1959</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1958</u>
Birth Rate (Live Births)	15.7	16.5	14.8	16.4
Death Rate	11.8	11.6	12.1	11.7
Infant Mortality Rate	7.8	22.2	18.4	22.5
Maternal Mortality Rate	0.00	0.38	0.00	0.43

REGISTERED PREMATURE INFANTS - CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO BIRTH WEIGHT

	<u>2lbs & under</u>	<u>2-3lbs</u>	<u>3-4lbs</u>	<u>4-5lbs</u>	<u>5-5½lbs</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Number	-	2	8	26	35	71
Number surviving after 24 hours	-	2	7	26	35	70
Number surviving after 8 days	-	2	5	26	35	68
Number surviving at 4 weeks	-	2	5	26	35	68

Prematurity rate of 6.1% - 4.0% 1958
- 6.7% 1957
- 4.6% 1956
- 6.3% 1955

CAUSES OF DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR

	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>
Prematurity	5	5	6	3	4	2	3	5	4	3
Malformation	5	3	6	5	6	5	5	7	5	1
Birth injuries	4	4	2	4	-	3	-	3	2	2
Collapse of lung	2	2	3	6	4	1	2	6	3	-
Respiratory diseases	2	1	4	6	2	1	4	4	2	-
Other diseases of infancy	3	2	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	2
Infectious disease	3	-	1	-	-	1	-	3	2	1
Accidents	-	2	3	1	1	-	1	-	2	-
Not traced	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
	24	19	26	25	19	14	15	29	20	9

Of the 9 infant deaths occurring in 1959, 2 died within 24 hours, 4 were less than 1 week old and the other 3 were between 6 months and 9 months old.

The neo-natal death rate was therefore 5.2 compared with 11.9 in 1958.

Sex of Infants

The sex ratio of 1,119 boys to every 1,000 girl infants is much higher than last year.

Illegitimate Births (per 1,000 total births)

	<u>England and Wales</u>	<u>Watford</u>
1939	42	50
1944	68	72
1945	94	95
1946	67	66
1947	52	58
1948	51	52
1949	50	56
1950	51	36
1951	51	49
1952	46	49
1953	46	43
1954	46	56
1955	45	56
1956	46	52
1957	46	37
1958	49	59
1959	51	54

Pollution of Rivers.

During the summer months notices were inserted in the local Press warning of the dangers of paddling or bathing in the local rivers. Notices have also been placed along the river banks giving similar warnings. The rivers in this locality, as do most rivers coursing through built-up areas, contain sewage-type organisms, at times in large numbers. Just what the risks to health are from contact with such water is largely a matter for speculation, for we know of no case of ill-health attributable to it. It would seem prudent, however, to advise parents not to let their children paddle or bathe in waters known to contain organisms of excremental origin.

Laboratory Services

Provision is available for investigation of all outbreaks of infectious disease and as will be seen from the Chief Public Health Inspector's report help was willingly given when it was necessary to investigate small outbreaks of food poisoning.

National Assistance Act - Section 47 (Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in Need of Care and Attention).

For the first time action was taken under the above Section to secure the removal to hospital of an old person who was living in grossly insanitary conditions. It was only with difficulty that the officers managed to gain admission to the house, where the old person was found lying on the floor in indescribably filthy conditions and in a state of mental confusion. There was no coal, gas water or electricity and the only food found was a packet of cornflakes and some uneaten food brought in by a neighbour the previous day. After full enquiries to ensure that the requirements of the Act were being fully met, arrangements were made for removal to hospital.

Several other cases were investigated during the year, but in all cases it was possible to arrange for suitable care without recourse to the compulsory provisions of the above Act.

Section 50 (Burials)

Arrangements were made on two occasions in 1959.

Birth and Mortality Rates

Below are set out the birth rates and principal mortality rates from 1939. The infant mortality rate is expressed as per 1,000 registered live-births. The maternal mortality rate is expressed as per 1,000 live and still-births registered during the year under review. The remaining rates are per 1,000 of population.

Year	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate	Maternal Mortality Rate	Tuberculosis Death Rate	Cancer Death Rate
1939	15.3	10.7	36.1	0.00	0.57	1.88
1940	15.1	11.7	44.3	5.90	0.59	1.35
1941	13.8	10.9	55.06	0.90	0.58	1.62
1942	17.4	10.9	28.4	1.50	0.56	1.75
1943	16.5	12.4	40.0	1.74	0.32	1.75
1944	19.7	14.8	32.0	3.69	0.50	1.59
1945	17.4	11.6	28.2	0.84	0.58	2.04
1946	18.6	10.1	23.3	1.51	0.36	1.68
1947	19.6	10.8	28.6	0.69	0.23	1.94
1948	15.7	10.3	24.2	0.00	0.37	1.81
1949	14.7	10.8	18.5	0.00	0.36	2.06
1950	13.9	10.8	23.1	0.00	0.24	1.61
1951	14.0	11.4	18.7	0.00	0.22	1.66
1952	14.1	11.1	25.2	0.00	0.15	1.98
1953	13.3	11.9	25.9	3.05	0.17	1.90
1954	14.0	10.5	18.7	2.89	0.05	1.94
1955	14.4	11.5	13.4	0.00	0.10	2.06
1956	14.9	11.1	13.9	0.00	0.22	2.01
1957	14.8	11.0	26.9	0.00	0.11	2.40
1958	14.8	12.1	18.4	0.00	0.03	2.56
1959	15.7	11.8	7.8	0.00	0.04	2.37

PREVALANCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notified Infectious Diseases, 1959 (Corrected)

Disease	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-64	Over 65	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	1	7	17	5	2	-	-	-	-	32
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis											
- Paralytic	1	1	1	4	-	-	2	1	-	-	10
- Non-											
Paralytic	-	1	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	6
Meningococcal infections	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Pneumonia	-	1	3	6	2	1	4	2	22	12	53
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	5	6	1	-	-	12
Juandice	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	-	6	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Measles	26	161	222	443	20	5	6	-	-	-	883
Food Poisoning	4	5	5	5	4	1	5	3	6	-	38
Dysentery	-	-	1	3	-	-	2	2	1	-	9
Acute Encephalitis											
- Infective	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Post Infections	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Totals	34	176	244	484	32	15	25	9	31	13	1,063

IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINATION - 1959

	At Clinics		By Private Doctors		Total
	Under 5	Over 5	Under 5	Over 5	
<u>Diphtheria Immunization</u>					
Primary	1, 045	234	122	6	1, 557
Booster	139	1, 477	11	63	1, 540
	1, 184	1, 711	133	69	3, 097
<u>Whooping Cough Immunization</u>					
Primary	1, 109	6	83	1	1, 199
Booster	6	8	-	1	15
	1, 115	14	83	2	1, 214
<u>Combined Diphtheria/Whooping Cough/Tetanus Immunization</u>					
Primary	-	-	738	16	754
Booster	-	-	-	71	71
	-	-	738	87	825
<u>Smallpox Vaccination</u>					
Primary	1, 105	2	675	158	1, 940
Re-Vaccinations	3	3	13	325	344
	1, 108	5	688	483	2, 284

ANTI-POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

	At Clinics			By Private Doctors			Total
	To 31. 12. 58	1959	Total	To 31. 12. 58	1959	Total	
<u>Two Injections Given</u>							
Children born in years 1943- 1958	21, 383	5, 642	27, 025	4, 472	5, 284	9, 756	36, 781
Young Persons born in years 1933-1942	142	5, 879	6, 021	356	4, 303	4, 659	10, 680
Expectant Mothers	446	607	1, 053	280	659	939	1, 992
Other Priority Groups	7	24	31	134	262	396	427
Total	21, 978	12, 152	34, 130	5, 242	10, 508	15, 750	49, 880
Number of persons given three injections (All Groups)	3, 968	20, 143	24, 111	107	6, 328	6, 435	30, 546

Smallpox

No smallpox contacts were investigated.

TUBERCULOSIS

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 19	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 24	4	5	-	1	-	-	-	-
25 - 34	7	5	1	1	-	-	-	-
35 - 44	7	6	-	-	-	1	-	-
45 - 54	8	3	1	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 64	8	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	6	3	-	1	1	1	-	-
Untraced	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	47	28	2	3	1	2	-	-

Mass Radiography Unit.

The Unit visited the town in April. Over 10,500 people passed through it. This good response was no doubt largely due to the prominence given by siting the Unit in the service road to the Parade.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS 1920 - 1958

NEW CASES						DEATHS			
Year	Population	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Total	Rate per 1,000 pop.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Total	Rate per 1,000 pop.
1959	73,780	75	5	80	1.08	3	-	3	0.04
1958	73,350	72	8	80	1.09	2	-	2	0.03
1957	73,050	92	6	98	1.34	8	-	8	0.10
1956	72,520	54	6	60	0.83	13	3	16	0.22
1955	72,420	74	7	81	1.12	6	1	7	0.10
1954	72,490	77	5	82	1.13	4	-	4	0.05
1953	72,610	79	2	81	1.12	12	-	12	0.17
1952	73,200	73	11	84	1.15	9	2	11	0.15
1951	72,700	97	9	106	1.46	14	2	16	0.22
1950	74,380	66	12	78	1.05	16	2	18	0.24
1945	67,070	88	12	100	1.49	34	5	39	0.58
1940	67,430	52	4	56	0.83	37	1	38	0.59
1935	63,200	91	20	111	1.76	39	5	44	0.70
1930	55,870	116	11	127	2.27	44	-	44	0.79
1925	48,990	93	23	116	2.37	51	4	55	1.12
1920	48,027	124	19	143	2.98	40	8	48	1.00

Report of the Water Supply

Mr. J.R. Collins, A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.W.E., Water Engineer and Manager, has kindly supplied the following information:-

1. The supply was satisfactory both in quality and quantity throughout the year, in spite of an abnormally hot and dry summer.
2. 1,121 million gallons were supplied during the year, averaging 3.07 million gallons per day, and the supply on the maximum day (22nd June 1959) rose to 4.3 million gallons.
3. The whole of the supply was softened to approximately 155 ppm.
4. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, fluoridation was continued at both pumping stations. Regular tests on the fluoridation content of the supply were made, and confirmed that the treatment was maintained at the correct level of 1 ppm.
5. Sterilisation by super-chlorination and de-chlorination was carried out on the supplies from both pumping stations. Chlorine residual tests were taken at hourly intervals at each plant, at 4-hourly intervals on the high level reservoir supplies, and twice daily on the low level reservoir supply.
6. Bacteriological and chemical analyses of the supply were carried out regularly, and showed a consistently high standard. There is no plumbo-solvency.
7. A survey of water supplies to temporary dwellings revealed the following situation:-

106, Leavesden High Road.	Caravan dwellers standpipe in yard (population 5.)
---------------------------	--

Rear of 82, Leavesden High Road.	Caravan dweller has standpipe supply (population 1.)
----------------------------------	--

275, Shepcot Lane.	Caravan dwellers have two standpipes (population 6.)
--------------------	--

8. There was one permanent dwelling within the area of supply without a main water supply piped into the premises. This was Waterdale Farm Cottage where a family of 2 had an outside standpipe.

REPORT OF CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

HOUSING

1. CLEARANCE OF "SLUM" HOUSES.

In April the Council made a Clearance Area of 25 houses in Albert Street and Carey Place and three months later resolved to deal with this area by way of a Compulsory Purchase Order.

Good progress has been made by the Council in implementing the five year programme which was adopted in 1955 for the clearance of 110 houses in the Borough which were unfit for human habitation. Since that date 19 other privately owned houses, 2 basement dwellings and 22 Council owned houses have been added to the programme. On the other hand 22 of the original 110 unfit houses have been deleted from the programme and reconditioning works have been completed on all but 2 of these.

Altogether 131 dwellings have been scheduled for demolition or closure during the past five years. Statutory proceedings have been instituted in respect of all but 3 of these - the tenants of which are aged persons.

With the completion of the programme now well in hand very few dilapidated houses are left in the Borough calling for demolition proceedings.

The following unfit houses were demolished during 1959:-

Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15 and 17 West Street.

Nos. 1 & 2 New Street.

Nos. 3A, 4, 5 & 6 Church Street.

Nos. 101 & 103 Sutton Road.

Nos. 20, 24 & 25 Watford Field Road.

No. 4, Forge Cottages, Leavesden.

Nos. 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 124A & 124B, High Road, Leavesden.

Woodside House, Garston.

2. REPAIR OF UNFIT HOUSES.

Within the limitations of the Council's powers under the Public Health and Housing Acts the effort to prevent houses falling into dilapidation has been continued throughout the year. The Rent Act, 1957 has made a valuable contribution to this work.

Of the 144 houses which were made reasonably fit for human habitation 78 were dealt with informally by the public health inspectors. Statutory action under the Public Health and Housing Acts resulted in the repair of 66 houses; the works on 24 of these being carried out by the Council in default of the owners.

Because the repayments of the cost of these works can be spread over an agreed period most of the owners did not resent the enforcement action taken by the Council; it oftentimes enabled them to claim the rent increases permitted by the Rent Act which helped to pay for the repairs. The total cost of the repairs thus carried out by the Council amounted to £1, 962.

3. IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSES.

Applications for Improvement Grants are dealt with by the Borough Engineer. 65 Discretionary Grants and 25 Standard Grants were authorised by the Council during the year ended 31st December, 1959. Not one of the Standard Grants and 9 only of the Discretionary Grants were in respect of rented properties.

4. RENT ACT, 1957.

In my Annual Report for 1958 I drew attention to the way in which the number of applications for certificates of disrepair had diminished as the year progressed and I suggested that these provisions of the Rent Act might well fall into disuse. The number of applications for certificates of disrepair received during 1959 is 14 compared with 80 during 1958 and 73 during the last four months of 1957.

No serious difficulties have been encountered by the Council in dealing with applications for certificates of disrepair.

The Council has continued the policy of using its powers under the Public Health and Housing Acts to enforce essential repair works whenever these are found during Certificate of Disrepair inspections.

5. OVERCROWDING AND HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.

Most of the cases of statutory overcrowding now discovered arise from sub-letting or the conversion of dwellings into lodging houses.

Houses which have been provided with a water supply, toilet and cooking facilities to serve the needs of one family only are manifestly unsuitable for use by several families unless additional facilities are provided.

The Council is concerned at the way slum conditions can be created in comparatively large, soundly-built houses by multiple lettings, and is trying to

control this development by using the various powers under the Housing and Public Health Acts.

Legal proceedings were taken in four cases of statutory overcrowding. One of these was a house having five rooms and a permitted number of $8\frac{1}{2}$. It was occupied by 6 families comprising 12 adults and 6 children; even the roof space was being occupied by one family. The Bench imposed on the owner a fine of £5 for causing the overcrowding and made a Nuisance Order in respect of insanitary conditions. Fines amounting to £20 were imposed for infringements of the Building Byelaws.

Another house which has 8 rooms and a permitted number of $14\frac{1}{2}$ accommodated 4 families and 4 lodgers, the total number of occupants being 14 adults and 8 children. The Bench imposed on the owner a fine of £5 for causing the overcrowding.

The fines in the other two less serious cases were £4 0s. 0d. and £2 10s. 0d.

The Council has authorised the service of notices under Section 36 of the Housing Act 1957 on the owners of 6 houses requiring the execution of works or reduction of the number of occupants of the houses.

One house which was let in lodgings was found to have six beds in one room. The Council served a notice on the occupier of the house under Section 90 of the Housing Act stating the maximum number of persons by whom each room in the house could be occupied as sleeping accommodation.

6. MOVABLE DWELLINGS.

Since the Council adopted the policy of taking direct action to remove residential caravans whenever they are placed on land without the Council's and the landowner's consents the problem caused by itinerant caravan dwellers has been reduced to one of negligible importance.

FOOD

7. FOOD HYGIENE.

Inspection of all classes of food premises, vehicles and stalls was continued. Not all food traders maintain consistently even the minimum standards required by law, although it is usually only necessary for the inspector to draw attention to a contravention for it to be remedied forthwith. One fried fish and chip shop proprietor did not carry out necessary work until a report was made to the Public Health Committee.

The Committee authorised legal proceedings for the offences (a) of delivering meat in a dirty tray and (b) of smoking while handling open food. Both offenders pleaded guilty and both were fined £5.

Every opportunity is taken of promoting education in food hygiene, primarily by the inspectors in the course of their visits. In addition, this year, in conjunction with the local Gas and Electricity Boards, exhibits illustrating meat inspection and measures to prevent food poisoning in meat were displayed at a "Meat Exhibition" at the Watford Technical College promoted by the Hertfordshire Institute of Agriculture and visited principally by women's clubs and schoolchildren. Talks and demonstrations have also been given to the staff of the local school meals service, licensed victuallers and local members of the Institute of Caterers.

8. FOOD INSPECTION.

(i) Meat

All food animals slaughtered at the two slaughterhouses in the Borough are inspected and to achieve this it has been necessary for the inspectors to work overtime and on Sundays. Advantage was taken of the Exchequer Grant made available by the Government in respect of the inspection of meat which was not for local consumption.

The coming into force on the first of January of the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958 and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958 imposed new obligations both on the occupiers of slaughterhouses and on the slaughterhouse workers. It was not possible to achieve compliance with the new laws by advice and persuasion and when applications for licence renewals were received in July it was necessary to report that neither slaughterhouse complied with the law in certain constructional respects. The Public Health Committee deferred consideration of the applications for three weeks, during which time the necessary works were done. There was also repeated failure to comply with regulations relating to hygienic practices and proprietors of both slaughterhouses were prosecuted, one for failure to remove manure from the premises and the other for offences in connection with refuse storage and cleanliness. Both pleaded guilty and were fined, respectively, £10 and £70 (in respect of 14 offences).

Statistics relating to meat inspection at the slaughterhouses will be found in the Appendix. Table XI shows that considerable success attends the efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to eradicate Bovine Tuberculosis. Hertfordshire and adjacent counties were declared attested areas on October 1st and the Ministry plans to make all herds in the country into attested herds by 1961. It may well be that after that date Bovine Tuberculosis will become a rare condition in the slaughterhouse. One noteworthy outcome of this campaign is the marked decrease in the weight of carcase beef condemned, i. e. from $36\frac{1}{2}$ tons in 1947 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ tons in 1959.

The slaughterhouse managers have been authorised to dispose of condemned meat and offals to six firms of repute whose methods and processing have been

approved by the appropriate public health inspectors. This meat is impregnated with a green dye before it leaves the slaughterhouse premises.

Cysticercus bovis

124 cases of *Cysticercus bovis* were discovered in the 4,178 cattle slaughtered in Watford during 1959. This gives an incidence rate of 2.9% compared with 2.9% in 1958 and 2.8% in 1957.

With the exception of one steer which had ten viable cysts (head 7, heart 3) and two degenerated, all the infections were very light. Carcases showing infections which might be transmissible to man were retained at a temperature not exceeding 20°F. for three weeks. Distribution of the cysts in the affected animals is shown in the table.

	Head	Heart	Skirt	Other
Viable Cysts	33	9	-	1
Degenerate Cysts	56	43	7	-

The cysts in 32 cases (25.8%) were viable indicating that the infections were of recent origin. This compared with 25.0% for 1958.

Slaughterhouse Policy.

There are two privately owned slaughterhouses in Watford. The smaller of these was re-constructed in part during 1942 and progress is being made to bring the premises into full compliance with the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) and Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958.

The larger slaughterhouse which is an old one is situated in the centre of the town and the Council is anxious to terminate its use as soon as possible. The lessees of the premises would like to construct a modern meat works on a site within the Borough which is owned by the Borough Council and is suitable for this purpose; they would then be willing to discontinue the use of the old slaughterhouse.

The site of the proposed new meat works is being sold by the Council to the Company and the Town Clerk is negotiating with the owner of the freehold of the old slaughterhouse for its acquisition by the Corporation.

No undue delay is foreseen in the submission to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of the report required by the Slaughterhouse Reports (Appointed Day) Order 1959. The date that the Council can recommend the Minister to fix for the Construction Regulations to apply in Watford will depend on the rate of progress made by the lessees in building the new slaughterhouse.

Slaughter of Animals Acts.

Eighteen full licences (except for horses) and one restricting the holder to slaughtering under supervision of an experienced slaughterman were issued during the year. No infringements of the legislation have been reported.

Diseases of Animals Acts.

Twenty-seven cases of suspected swine fever were notified to the Police, the authorised officers for the purposes of the Act, who supervised the destruction of the carcasses and the disinfection of the slaughterhouse.

(ii) Milk

Close supervision has been maintained on the quality, composition and processing of milk sold within the Borough. Milk processed within the Borough has been regularly sampled and all the 84 samples were found by the Bacteriologist at the Public Health Laboratory, Watford to comply with the statutory standards.

A bacteriological sample taken in June from raw T. T. milk, sold inside but produced outside the Borough, was found positive for *Brucella abortus* when the result was received some eight weeks later. Simultaneously a report was received on samples which had been taken from individual cows and two of these were also positive. The two infected cows were removed from the herd but a sample of the milk taken from a milk roundsman three days after the date on which the infected animals were said to have been removed also proved positive for the organism. The Medical Officer of Health, thus having reasonable grounds for suspecting that infection persisted in the herd, stopped the sale of the raw milk in the Borough under powers contained in Article 20 of the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959. The prohibition remained in force for a fortnight and was removed on receipt of laboratory reports on subsequent samples indicating that *Brucella abortus* was not present in the milk. Sale of the raw milk in the Borough has, however, not been resumed.

Details of dairies and distributors of milk registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 and 1959 and of licences granted under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949 will be found in the Appendix. Many shopkeepers are registered as milk distributors and licensed to sell milk of a special designation. Since the milk in every case is sold in bottles as received by the retailer no useful purpose appears to be served by registration and licensing; it merely creates time-consuming work in the Town Hall.

Specification of Areas

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has specified that milk of a special designation only may be sold in Watford and adjacent districts. The Council was concerned to find that cream from undesignated milk may legally be sold in "specified" areas and urged the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to make suitable regulations. The Minister replied that a difficulty not yet overcome was to devise a suitable test for cream pasteurisation and that there would be no avoidable delay in introducing regulations.

(iii) Ice Cream

There are five premises within the Borough in which ice cream is manufactured; they are kept under close supervision although the producers are well aware of the importance of maintaining a high standard of hygiene throughout their processing.

As part of their routine duties the Public Health Inspectors check periodically that retail vendors of ice-cream from shops, stalls and mobile vehicles comply with the appropriate regulations.

The Food Standards (Ice-Cream) Regulations 1959 and the Labelling of Food (Amendment) Regulations 1959 amend the compositional requirements of "ice-cream" (the product familiar since the war) and prescribe standards of composition for "dairy ice-cream" (milk fat only) and "milk ice" (a low-fat product made from milk), together with appropriate labelling requirements. No Watford manufacturer has undertaken the manufacture either of dairy ice-cream or of milk ice.

(iv) Unsound Food

Year by year the number of complaints by members of the public of the unsatisfactory condition of foodstuffs increases; this year there were 61 such complaints. These were for the most part fully justified but a few were pernickety and in one or two cases without foundation. It is probable that the increase does not represent any deterioration in the general standard of preparation and storage of foodstuffs but rather an increased sensitivity on the part of the public, which may have been fostered locally by press reports of proceedings taken by the Council as the result of complaints. Of the twenty-four complaints reported to the Council in 1959 legal proceedings were authorised in eleven cases (table XV) and warning letters were sent in respect of nine others. The remaining complaints were dealt with informally by the officials.

Conditions complained of followed the familiar pattern, e g mouldy meat and bakery products, foreign bodies, insects and dirt.

No report is made to the Council if the complainant is unwilling to give evidence in legal proceedings: it is felt that to insist on attendance at Court in every case where

an offence might be proved would have the effect of discouraging members of the public from reporting on the condition of food purchased by them.

Every complaint is carefully and fully investigated, whether or not the Council decides to take proceedings. Where appropriate the inspectors advise on suitable measures to be taken to avoid the recurrence of errors of manufacture or storage and a great deal of preventive work (which is the basis of all public health functions) is achieved in this way.

9. FOOD POISONING

Five family outbreaks of food poisoning involving sixteen persons; one other outbreak involving eight persons; and fourteen single cases of food poisoning were notified during the year. The causative organism was identified in all but three of the incidents but, with the exception of the outbreak involving eight persons, the food concerned was not discovered despite the most careful enquiries and laboratory examination of specimens. The difficulty with these enquiries is the long time which so often elapses between consumption of the infected food and notification of the illness to the Medical Officer.

The eight persons who were concerned in one outbreak had eaten the infected food at a large social gathering in London and very many persons in the greater London area were involved.

Considerable advances have been made in food hygiene during recent years and it is therefore disappointing to find that the incidence of food poisoning has not decreased.

A summary of the cases will be found in Table XVI in the Appendix.

The Public Health Laboratory Service has again been most helpful in the work we have done to prevent and control food poisoning. In particular no less than 94 specimens were examined in connection with the food poisoning cases reported above.

10. MERCHANDISE MARKS ACTS, 1887 and 1926

As a Food Drugs authority, the Council is charged with the enforcement of these Acts so far as they relate to foodstuffs. No offences were reported to the Council during the year.

11. COMPOSITION OF FOODS & DRUGS

The report of the Public Analyst, Mr. C. W. McHugo on the samples submitted for examination during the year 1959 is as follows:-

(i) Routine Samples -

37 Formal Milk Samples
104 Informal Samples comprising

(a) Foods

Sausages and other meat products.
Ice Cream and soft drinks.
Sweets and biscuits.
Flour and cereal foods.
Preserves and canned foods.
Condiments, flavouring and colouring ingredients.
Vegetarian and patent foods.
Fresh fruit and beverages.

(b) Drugs

Cough syrup.
Aspirin Tablets.
Saccharin Tablets.
Tab. Pro. Neuritis.
Somniferum Tablets.

With the exception of one obviously blown can of luncheon meat, the food products were of good quality, in a sound edible condition, and complied with the requirements of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, and with their respective Statutory standards where applicable. The samples of drugs complied with the British Pharmacopoeia.

(ii) Special Samples

One sample of bread and one french pastry contained iron oxide; one of bread contained charred bread fragments.

Rodent droppings were found in rolled oats and in a sample of bread.

Earth was found in milk, carbon in a swiss roll, green dye in an apple pie, an almond seed coat in a macaroon and sulphide of iron on a tinned steak and kidney pudding.

Blue discoloration in tinned crab was attributed to a slight excess of copper and blue flesh of raw apple to tannate of iron.

Deposit taken from a fish fryer consisted of a charred mixture of fish, flour and oil.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

12. INDUSTRIAL SMOKE

The excessive emission of smoke from Factory chimneys is not a serious problem in Watford. Most of the boiler plants are efficient new installations - many of them equipped with automatic controls.

Five boiler plants have caused smoke nuisances during the year.

Two of these were small hand fired boilers which were emitting grit and fly ash from the chimneys. Grit arresters were fitted to one of the plants and effectively abated the nuisance; the other is being dealt with in the same way.

The steel chimney stack of a new oil fired boiler installation was insulated with an aluminium sleeve and this stopped the emission of acidic smuts.

The new boiler plants at two hospitals have caused the other smoke nuisances; one of them is oil fired and the other one coal fired. Various adaptations have been made to prevent smut and smoke emissions. The widely fluctuating steam demand at the hospitals causes much of the trouble.

Tribute must be paid to the Watford factory managers for the measures they have taken to comply not only with the letter but with the spirit of the Clean Air Act.

The nuisance caused by grit and fumes from the Watford Gas Works was again discussed at a meeting of representatives of the Public Health Committee and the Eastern Gas Board. The Alkali Inspector carried out an investigation and made recommendations to the Gas Board for lessening the nuisance. The situation of the Gas Works in a built-up area is such that it is exceedingly difficult to operate the plant without occasionally causing some nuisance - particularly to nearby residents in the Bushey area.

Prior Approval of New Furnaces.

In all new boiler installations it is the practice of the Council to advise the factory managements of the "prior approval" provisions of the Clean Air Act, 1956. 17 applications for prior approval of new furnaces were made during 1959. Some modifications were made and 16 were granted. One was refused.

Height of New Chimneys

During the year plans were submitted to the Borough Engineer for the construction of seven new factory chimneys. The Architects were requested to increase the height

of 4 of these. It is not easy to reconcile the architect's desire for a chimney that cannot be seen and the Council's requirement that it must be high enough to disperse gases without causing a nuisance.

Atmospheric Pollution Research

In May a lead peroxide gauge was brought into use in Watford along with 3 others in the Bushey U.D.C. area to estimate the amount of sulphur in the atmosphere at the four sites.

13. CLEAN AIR POLICY

The Council's outline proposals for the establishment of two smoke control areas in Watford have been given provisional clearance by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. These are predominantly modern estates. Following discussions with representatives of the Watford & District Coal Merchants Association the Council deferred the making of smoke control orders until an adequate supply of premium smokeless fuels becomes available. The need for such areas is recognised by the Council who are encouraging the greater use of available smokeless fuels. The Eastern Gas Board was given the use of a new Council house on the Meriden Estate to demonstrate the burning of coke in the firegrates being fitted in Council houses.

MISCELLANEOUS

14. FACTORIES

There is close co-operation with the Borough Engineer on all plans of new factories or alterations to existing premises which are submitted to the Council for approval. This procedure ensures that the premises will comply with the various legislative requirements before structural work commences.

The items which mainly concern the Health Department are the lay-out and equipment of works canteens; sanitary accommodation; means of escape in case of fire; the prior approval of boiler plant, height of chimneys and the prevention of atmospheric pollution and other nuisances; and the storage of petroleum spirit and petroleum mixtures.

Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959

Part I. Health Provisions.

Certain health provisions of the Act are enforced by the Council; a summary of the work carried out during 1959 will be found in tabular form in the Appendix.

Part II. Safety. Section 34 - Means of Escape in Case of Fire.

The Chief Public Health Inspector is the Corporation's authorised officer for this

work. Extensions and alterations to existing factories and the construction of new factories demands a considerable amount of time in the preparation and revision of certificates.

The Factories Act, 1959 makes provision for the transfer of these functions to the fire authority (the Hertfordshire County Council) on a day to be appointed by the Minister. For several years the Borough Engineer has consulted the County Fire Protection Officer on plans dealing with industrial and commercial premises. No undue difficulties are therefore foreseen in the transfer of these responsibilities.

During 1959 twenty factories were surveyed and as a result fifteen certificates as to adequate means of escape in case of fire were issued.

Part IV - Special Provisions - Section 54 - Underground Bakehouses.

Several structural improvements were made to the one remaining underground bakehouse in Watford and the Council has renewed the certificate of suitability.

Part VIII - Section 110 - Home Work.

The nature of the work undertaken by the 105 outworkers within the Borough is set out in Table XVII.

15. SHOPS ACT, 1950.

The public health inspectors are appointed by the Council as Shops Act inspectors. The conditions of employment of shop assistants can conveniently be investigated when inspections of shop premises are made for other purposes.

One hairdresser who failed to give his assistants the statutory tea breaks and half day holidays was, after several warnings, prosecuted. The maximum penalty of £1 was imposed in respect of each of the 12 summonses concerning tea breaks and a fine of 10s. in respect of each of the 4 summonses concerning half day holidays.

Inspections are made after normal closing hours and on Sundays and Wednesday afternoons to detect illegal trading. Those provisions of the Shops Act that deal with the kinds of goods that can be sold on Sundays and Wednesday afternoons are exceedingly difficult to understand and it is the small general shopkeeper who is most likely to make prohibited sales - oftentimes unwittingly. Whenever infringements are discovered the shopkeeper is advised of the legal requirements and it has not been necessary to report any infringements to the Council for stronger action.

One of the clauses of a new Hertfordshire County Council Bill will, if enacted, bring mobile shops within the ambit of the Shops Act and thus remove an anomaly irksome to other traders.

16. PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 & 1936.

The Chief Public Health Inspector is appointed by the Council as the authorised officer for the purposes of these Acts.

146 premises are licensed for the storage of petroleum spirit and petroleum mixtures. Altogether the total quantity which is licensed to be stored within the Borough is 663,300 gallons. Three licences have been granted for the storage of 1,294 lbs. in total of Carbide of Calcium.

The Council's Conditions incorporate all the Home Office recommendations concerning electrically operated petrol service pumps. These come fully into force on 1st January, 1960. The Eastern Electricity Board was asked to examine the electric pumps in Watford and reported that 119 did not comply with the new Conditions. Most of these had been renewed or modified by the end of the year.

One garage proprietor was fined £10 for failing to test his underground petrol storage tanks as required by the Council's Conditions.

Considerable quantities of highly inflammable spirit solvents are stored in 6 large printing and printing ink factories in Watford. Although many thousands of gallons of these solvents have a "flash point" considerably below 73°F. they are not petroleum mixtures within the meaning of the Petroleum Acts. There is, therefore, no statutory requirement that their mode of storage must comply with the Council's Conditions. Fortunately the Managers of the factories concerned are quite willing to co-operate with the Council by storing their low flash-point solvents in accordance with the Council's Conditions and by implementing the recommendations of the County Fire Protection Officer. Considerable improvements in the methods of storage were made during the year and others are in hand.

Nevertheless the Petroleum Acts are urgently in need of revision so that there can be proper statutory control over the storage of all low flash-point spirits and mixtures.

17. RAG FLOCK & OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

Nine premises in Watford are registered for upholstery work and one shop is licensed for the storage of rag flock.

It has not been necessary during the year to report any infringements of the Act to the Council.

18. HEATING APPLIANCES (FIREGUARDS) ACT, 1952.

The public health inspectors are appointed to inspect and test appliances in accordance with the above Act.

With ~~one~~ exception all new appliances inspected during the year were found to comply with the appropriate standard.

19. FABRICS (MISDESCRIPTION) ACT, 1913.

The Fabrics (Misdescription) Regulations, 1959 which prescribe standard of non-inflammability for textile fabrics came into operation on the 11th of May 1959 and the Public Health Inspectors were appointed as authorised officers for the purposes of the Act.

There are only two firms in Watford who stock low flammability Winceyette and three who stock flare-free nylon or terylene net. The Council decided that samples of these fabrics should be submitted to the R.T.S.A. Testing House at Henley-on-Thames. The two samples that were submitted by the end of the year complied with the appropriate British Standards.

20. PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

The public health inspectors are appointed officers under Section 4 of the Act and for its enforcement they work in close co-operation with the local inspector of the R.S.P.C.A.

Thirteen persons are licensed to keep pet shops within the Borough and these have been conducted satisfactorily.

21. PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

There is one enclosed heated swimming bath in Watford and this serves a very wide area. The water capacity is 140,000 gallons and the filtration plant has a maximum of a four hour turnover rate. The water is sterilised by break point chlorination. Samples of the water are regularly taken for bacteriological examination and the results have been very satisfactory.

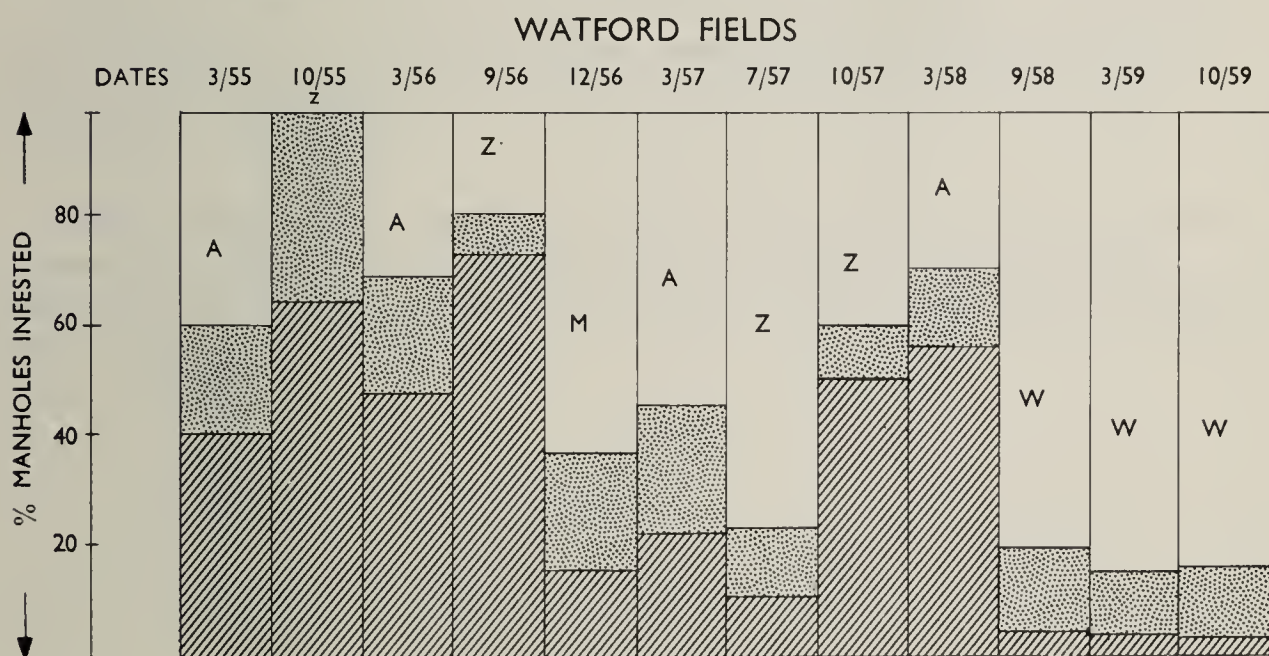
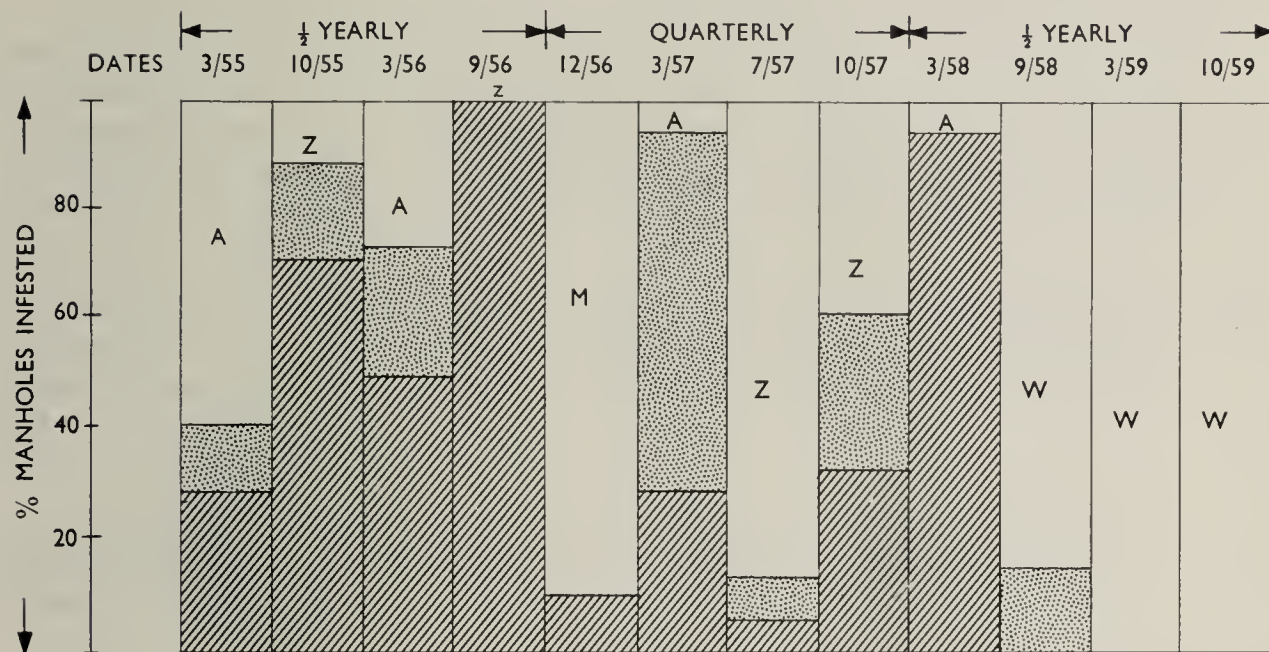
22. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The two rodent operatives are provided with a light van for the transport of poison baits etc. With the assistance of a sewer man the town's sewers have been regularly treated for the destruction of rats. Over a period of years a heavy and apparently permanent infestation has been revealed in sewer systems serving Watford Fields and Queens Ward, the two areas comprising mixed residential, industrial and commercial development in the oldest parts of the town. Baiting by conventional methods failed to reduce the rat population and the results shown on the diagram for treatments in 1955 and the Spring and Autumn of 1956 were typical.

RAT DESTRUCTION IN SEWERS

“BLACK AREAS” 1955 - 1959

EXTENDED PREBAITING & USE OF WARFARIN



QUEENS WARD

M — MAFANTU A — ARSENIC W — WARFARIN Z — ZINC PHOSPHIDE



— PART TAKE



— COMPLETE TAKE

SCHEME OF BAITING : 3/58 - 1 : 5 : 9; 9/58 - 1 : 4 : 8; 3/59 - 1 : 9 : 12; 10/59 - 1 : 4 : 8.

PREVIOUS TREATMENTS - USUALLY 1 : 3 : 5

It was therefore decided to try quarterly instead of half-yearly baiting and for the first of these treatments Mafantu was used. The results of the quarterly treatments were difficult to interpret but it was clear that the object of clearing the sewers of rats had not been attained.

In March 1958 resort was had to extended prebaiting. Post-baiting was not done but in September of that year a very marked drop in "takes" was recorded. On this and subsequent treatments Warfarin, oatmeal, sugar, PNP and technical white oil were used in accordance with the Ministry formula. Watford Fields is now apparently clear and at the last treatment the "takes" in Queens Ward were all very doubtful; even the one "complete take" in this area shewed "no take" when bait was relaid.

Apart from the areas discussed above only one of the 76 manholes baited in areas formerly found to be infested shewed a partial "take" of bait. Consideration is therefore being given to a 10% test baiting only being carried out in the Spring of 1960.

The Council has continued to provide a free rodent destruction service in domestic premises. The number of infested properties treated is set out in Table XVIII.

Wasps were a great nuisance during the fine summer of 1959 and in response to requests, particularly from aged and infirm people who could not themselves deal with nests, the Council resolved to provide a nest destruction service at a fixed charge of 10s. per treatment.

Many complaints were received about the fouling of building and forecourts by pigeons. The Council was not able to deal with the problem generally but did instruct a commercial firm to reduce the number of birds frequenting the Town Hall and its vicinity and the public market.

... ..
... ..
... ..

... ..
... ..
... ..
... ..
... ..

... ..
... ..
... ..
... ..

... ..
... ..
... ..

... ..
... ..
... ..

... ..
... ..
... ..
... ..



APPENDIX

RECORD OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS 1959.

TABLE I

<u>Houses -</u>				
Public Health Act	...	...	...	224
Housing Act	...	...	...	125
Overcrowding	...	...	...	62
<u>Factories -</u>				
Factories with Mechanical Power	...	...	...	171
Factories without Mechanical Power	...	...	...	19
Building Sites	...	...	...	13
Workplaces	...	...	...	5
Outworkers	...	...	...	30
<u>General -</u>				
Refuse Accommodation	...	...	...	45
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	118
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	38
Theatres, Cinemas, etc.	...	...	...	7
Public Houses	...	...	...	13
Schools	...	...	...	25
Smoke Observations and Industrial Nuisances	...	...	...	516
Vacant Land and Refuse Tips	...	...	...	134
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	20
Other Insect Pests	...	...	...	25
Drainage Inspections and Tests	...	...	...	407
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	254
Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	283
Shops Act	...	...	...	340
Pests Act	...	...	...	112
Pet Animals Act	...	...	...	25
Interviews with Owners, etc.	...	...	...	478
Unclassified Visits	...	...	...	369
<u>Revisits to Premises under Notice -</u>				
Public Health Act - Houses	...	...	...	321

<u>Revisits to Premises under Notice -</u>				
(Cont'd.)				
Public Health Act - Other...	...	...	...	115
Housing Act	...	...	...	1,888
Other Revisits	...	...	...	117
<u>Meat and Foods -</u>				
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	1,913
Visits re Food Inspection	...	...	...	405
Butchers Shops	...	...	...	72
Fishmongers and Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	28
Sugar and Flour Confectionery Shops	...	...	...	82
Grocers, Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	225
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	82
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	21
Restaurants and Dining Rooms	...	...	...	159
Public Market	...	...	...	185
Bakehouses	...	...	...	76
Other Food Premises	...	...	...	75
Milk Samples (Bacteriological)	...	...	...	91
Ice Cream Samples (ditto)	...	...	...	59
Food (Adulteration) Samples	...	...	...	134
(Bacteriological) Samples	...	...	...	9
				9,915

HOUSING

TABLE II

NEW HOUSES

The Borough Engineer has kindly supplied the under-mentioned information regarding new houses erected during 1959.

(a) Number of new houses erected by the Local Authority	124
(b) Number of new houses erected by private enterprise	225
Total number of houses built since 1945:-	
(a) By the Local Authority	3,508
(b) By private enterprise	1,483

COUNCIL HOUSES AND REQUISITIONED PROPERTIES - TABLE III

The Borough Treasurer has kindly supplied the following information:

- (a) Number of Council houses occupied on 31st December, 1959 =
5,363 plus 99 prefabricated bungalows.
- (b) Number of requisitioned premises . . . 1
- (c) Number of families housed in requisitioned premises. 5

NOTICES SERVED DURING 1959 RE HOUSING DEFECTS - TABLE IV.

A C T	INFORMAL	STATUTORY
Housing Act, 1957	69	32
Public Health Act, 1936	40	11

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND OTHER UNFIT HOUSES

TABLE V

<u>A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED</u>	HOUSES DEMOLISHED	<u>DISPLACED DURING YEAR</u>	
		PERSONS	FAMILIES
IN CLEARANCE AREAS			
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	22	12	6
NOT IN CLEARANCE AREAS			
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1) of the Housing Act, 1957.	5	14	7
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health.	5	16	6

	HOUSES DEMOLISHED	DISPLACED DURING YEAR	
		PERSONS	FAMILIES
<u>B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED</u>			
(10) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957.	1	4	1
<u>C. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED.</u>			
		By Owner	By Local Authority
(11) After informal action by local Authority.		78	-
(12) After formal notice under			
(a) Public Health Acts		11	7
(b) Section 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957.		31	17

TABLE VI - RENT ACT, 1957.

PART I. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR.

1.	Number of applications for certificates	...	14
2.	Number of decisions not to issue certificates		0
3.	Number of decisions to issue certificates	...	14
	(a) in respect of some but not all defects	...	9
	(b) in respect of all defects	...	5
4.	Number of undertakings given by landlords under Paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	...	2
5.	Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to Paragraph 5 of the First Schedule		0

6.	Number of certificates issued	10
----	-------------------------------	-----	-----	----

PART II. APPLICATIONS FOR CANCELLATION OF CERTIFICATES

7.	Number of applications by landlords for cancellation of certificates	...	...	...	7
8.	Number of objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates	...	...	...	1
9.	Number of decisions by local authority to cancel certificates in spite of tenants' objection	...			1
10.	Number of certificates cancelled	...			7

PART III. APPLICATIONS FOR FORM P CERTIFICATES

11.	Number of applications from tenants	...			1
12.	Number of applications from landlords	...			16

FOOD

TYPES OF FOOD PREMISES WITHIN THE BOROUGH AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1959.

TABLE VII

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	17
Bakery and Flour Confectionery Shops	...	...			31
Sweetshops	...	...	...	...	111
Butchers	...	...	...	...	59
Fishmongers and Fried Fish	...	...	...		26
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...		55
Grocers and General Stores	...	...	...		165
Wholesale Grocers	...	...	...	...	3
Wholesale Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	3
Wholesale Meat Salesmen	...	...	...		5
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	73
Industrial and Commercial Canteens	...	...			65
School Canteens	...	...	...	...	36
Hotels and Public Houses	...	...	...		57
Unclassified Food Factories	...	...	...		10
Public Market	...	...	...	...	1
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	2

Food Premises Registered by the Council

1. Under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Ice Cream Manufacturers	...	...	6
Ice Cream Dealers	...	...	184
Preserved Food Manufacturers	...	...	59

2. Article 8 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Dairies	2
---------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949.

The Council has granted two Dealers Licences to pasteurise milk and one Dealers Licence to sterilise milk at dairies within the Borough. Licences for the sale of milk under the above Regulations were granted as follows:-

Designated Milk	Dealers Licences	Supplementary Licences	Total
Tuberculin Tested Milk	11	1	12
Pasteurised Milk	31	2	33
Sterilised Milk	22	1	23

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

DEFECTS REMEDIED IN FOOD PREMISES

TABLE VIII.

Food Rooms Reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Structural Repairs...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Ventilation Improved	...	...	...	...	...	2
Lighting Improved	...	...	...	...	...	3
Rooms Cleansed and Redecorated	...	...	...	...	...	20
Apparatus, Utensils, etc., Cleansed, Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	...	...	17

New Refuse Accommodation Provided	...	...	...	...	6
Sinks Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	...	10
Additional Wash-basins Provided	...	...	...	...	3
Constant Hot Water Provided	...	...	...	...	12
Soap and Towels Provided	...	...	...	...	5
First-Aid Equipment Provided	...	...	...	...	2
Unsatisfactory Food Rooms Closed	...	...	...	...	2
Other ...	...	...	...	...	3
					94

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS REJECTED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION
DURING 1959 - TABLE IX

HOME KILLED MEAT AND OFFAL

(a) Rejected at Slaughterhouses

				<u>lbs.</u>
Beef (including 10 carcasses)	...	...	...	8,173
Lamb (including 13 carcasses)	...	...	...	706
Pork (including 68 carcasses)	...	...	...	6,318
Veal (including 1 carcass)	...	...	...	33

Offal from Bovines -

206 Heads	...	...	...	...	6,090
158 Tongues	...	...	...	...	790
523 Lungs	...	...	...	...	5,230
70 Hearts	...	...	...	...	350
1,099 Livers and 578 Part Livers	...	...	...	...	19,030
20 Spleens	...	...	...	...	40
18 Skirts	...	...	...	...	36
8 Tails	...	...	...	...	16

Offal from Pigs -

346 Plucks	...	...	...	...	1,761
1,140 Livers	...	...	...	...	2,282
1,035 Lungs	...	...	...	...	2,072
365 Heads	...	...	...	...	3,983
205 Other Organs	...	...	...	...	114

Offal from Sheep -

637 Plucks	...	...	...	...	...	2, 839
2, 818 Livers	...	...	...	...	...	5, 536
493 Lungs	...	...	...	...	...	970
17 Heads	...	...	...	...	...	89
8 Other Organs	...	...	...	...	...	5

Offal from Calves -

1 Head	...	...	...	...	...	6
3 Plucks	...	...	...	...	...	11
2 Other Organs	...	...	...	...	...	3

(b) Condemned in Retail and Manufacturing Premises

Pork	...	...	...	...	...	491
Beef	...	...	...	...	...	1, 990
Lamb	...	...	...	...	...	211
Veal	...	...	...	...	...	53

IMPORTED MEAT AND OFFAL.

Beef	...	...	...	...	...	662
Mutton	...	...	...	...	...	109
Pork	...	...	...	...	...	91

OTHER FOODS INCLUDING CANNED GOODS 10, 007

80, 097

Total weight of food found to be unfit = 35 tons 15 cwts. 17 lbs.

Of the above food 83. 0% comprised meat and offal rejected in the slaughter-houses.

INCIDENCE OF DISEASE IN ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED IN WATFORD
DURING 1959.

TABLE X

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	3, 282	896	348	17, 390	29, 542
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	2	1	13	64
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1, 416	332	3	3, 665	2, 494
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	42. 9	37. 3	1. 1	21. 2	8. 7
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	5	-	-	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	95	68	1	-	252
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	3. 0	8. 1	0. 3	-	0. 9

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcases in which cysticercosis was found	107	17			
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	107	17			
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	61	10			
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil			

For comparison purposes, the percentages of the animals found to be diseased during the past ten years are set out below:-

TABLE XI

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis:					
1950	42.5	39.8	0.9	7.3	14.3
1951	40.9	40.4	0.9	4.5	14.5
1952	41.3	43.0	1.2	6.7	15.4

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
1953	34.5	35.2	1.9	9.6	20.8
1954	34.4	29.6	3.2	6.9	14.6
1955	36.2	30.9	0.6	5.9	11.4
1956	36.3	31.0	0.4	6.6	9.1
1957	32.9	27.7	2.5	2.5	8.9
1958	29.4	33.9	2.0	9.5	9.7
1959	42.9	37.3	1.1	20.0	8.7

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis:					
1950	10.5	36.5	0.4	-	5.5
1951	8.0	29.3	0.3	-	3.0
1952	7.6	26.8	0.2	-	3.7
1953	8.1	22.8	0.1	-	3.7
1954	7.0	22.1	0.5	-	2.4
1955	6.9	19.3	-	-	1.3
1956	6.2	20.4	-	-	1.1
1957	4.5	14.6	-	-	1.2
1958	4.9	13.6	-	-	1.0
1959	3.0	8.1	0.3	-	0.9

BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLES OF HEAT-TREATED MILK - TABLE XII

Pasteurised	Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised	Sterilised
42	21	21

All the samples were satisfactory.

ICE CREAM SAMPLES

BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLES - TABLE XIII

No. of Samples	Satisfactory - Grades 1 & 2	Unsatisfactory - Grades III & IV
60	59	1

98.3% of the samples were satisfactory.

CHEMICAL SAMPLES

Since the 27th April, 1959, the statutory minimum content for ice cream has been 5 per cent fat and $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent milk solids other than fat. Artificial sweeteners are now prohibited.

TABLE XIV

Sample Number	Fat Content	Milk Solids
1	10.9	10.0
2	12.6	9.7
3	5.9	13.6
4	7.4	8.6

TABLE XV

Legal Proceedings in respect of the sale of
unsatisfactory foodstuffs. (Section 2, Food
& Drugs Act, 1955).

Condition of Food	Result	Fine	Remarks
1. Mouldy sausages	Conviction	Vendor £10 Manufacturer £10	Held that the manufacturers had sold blast-frozen sausages without notifying the vendor that they were not fresh; and that the vendor had not used due diligence in that he had sold sausages on the fifth day after delivery to him.

Condition of Food	Result	Fine	Remarks
2. Mouse droppings in oats.	Conviction	Vendor £25	Same defendant as in (2) above.
3. Mouldy pork pie.	"	Vendor £10	
4. Mouldy sausages.	"	Vendor £10	
5. Mouldy sausage roll.	"	Vendor £10	
6. Mouldy sausage roll.	"	Vendor £5 £3 3. 0. costs.	
7. Mouldy steak and kidney pie.	"	Vendor £40	
8. Mouldy steak and kidney pie.	"	Vendor £10 £6 6. 0. costs	
9. Mouldy pork pie.	"	Vendor £10	
10. Mouldy sausages.	"	Vendor £15	
11. Glass in food powder.	"	Manufacturer £10.	

FOOD POISONING 1959.

TABLE XVI

Number of Outbreaks	Number of Cases	Number of Deaths	Organism responsible	Food Suspected
1	4	-	Not identified	Not known
8	8	-	Salmonella typhimurium.	Not known
1	1	-	Not identified	Not known
1	3	-	Not identified	Not known

Number of Outbreaks	Number of Cases	Number of Deaths	Organism responsible	Food Suspected
1	3	-	Salmonella typhimurium. Phage type 32.	Not known
1	4	-	Salmonella typhimurium. Phage type U.15.	Not known
5	5	-	Salmonella typhimurium. Phage type U.15.	Not known
1	2	-	Salmonella typhimurium.	Not known
1	8	-	Salmonella typhimurium.	Chicken and Pineapple. Vol-au-vent.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959.

TABLE VXII

Part 1 - Health Provisions

	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	33	19	1	-
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	354	171	10	-

	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	14	14	-	-
Total:	401	204	11	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

	Number of cases in which defects were found		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted		
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H. M.	By H. M.	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S. 2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	-	2	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	18	9	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act	-	-	-	-	-
Total:	20	11	-	3	-

PART VIII - Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	No. of Out-workers as required by Section 110(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council
Wearing apparel making	12	1
Artificial Flowers	41	-
Box making	27	-
Brush making	17	1
Carding, etc., of buttons etc.	7	-
Stuffed toys	1	-
	105	2

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

REPORT FOR PERIOD APRIL 1st - DECEMBER 31st, 1959.

TABLE XVIII

	NUMBER OF PROPERTIES FOUND TO BE INFESTED AND TREATED BY LOCAL AUTHORITY.		
	Local Authority Land, Allotments, &c.	Dwelling Houses	Other Premises
Rats	7	366	9
Mice	-	50	17
Total	7	416	26

Printed by the Town Clerk's Dept.,
Town Hall,
Watford

NOTIFICATIONS OF POLIOMYELITIS 1955 - 1959
 Extracted from Registrar General's Weekly Return for
 ENGLAND & WALES

